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**Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019**

# Request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

In his previous report on the Khmer Rouge trials (A/71/338), the Secretary-General identified important progress made in the judicial work across all sets of proceedings before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. The Secretary-General also highlighted the continuing financial challenges facing both the international and national components of the Extraordinary Chambers and requested the approval of a subvention of up to $16.2 million for the year 2017.

By its resolution 71/272, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General, as an exceptional measure, to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $11 million to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017, and requested the Secretary-General to report on the use of the commitment authority in the context of the next report.

In the present report, the Secretary-General outlines the judicial progress of the Extraordinary Chambers since the previous report, provides a projection regarding the anticipated use of the commitment authority for 2017, presents information on the proposed budget of the Chambers for the biennium 2018-2019 and seeks the approval of the Assembly of an appropriation for a subvention for the international component of the Chambers in the amount of $10.4 million for 2018.

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# I. Introduction

1. Since their establishment, and as detailed in the previous reports of the Secretary-General on the Khmer Rouge trials (A/58/617, A/59/432 and Add.1, A/60/565, A/62/304, A/67/380, A/68/532, A/69/536, A/70/403 and A/71/338), the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia have achieved substantial progress towards fulfilling their mandate. Since the previous report of the Secretary-General, all organs of the Chambers have continued to be fully engaged as trial and judicial investigations are proceeding, while a judgment on appeals in case 002/01 was delivered in the last quarter of 2016.

2. Case 001, against Kaing Guek Eav, alias "Duch", was the first case tried before the Chambers. His conviction became final, as varied, by the appeal decision of the Supreme Court Chamber of 3 February 2012. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

3. Case 002 has been severed into two trials. The first trial, case 002/01, concentrated on alleged crimes against humanity relating to the forced movement of the population from Phnom Penh and later from other regions and the alleged execution of former Khmer Republic soldiers at Tuol Po Chrey. The Trial Chamber pronounced its judgment on 7 August 2014, convicting two surviving senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, of crimes against humanity and sentencing them to life imprisonment. Both accused appealed the convictions. On 23 November 2016, the Supreme Court Chamber delivered the judgment on appeals, confirming the charges of crimes against humanity of murder, persecution on political grounds and other inhumane acts, and upholding the sentence of life imprisonment imposed on both accused. A second trial, case 002/02, contains additional charges against Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan related to genocide, forced marriages and treatment of Buddhists, as well as alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes committed at four security centres and three worksites and in a group of work cooperatives located in one administrative district. The trial commenced with opening statements on 17 October 2014. Evidentiary hearings commenced on 8 January 2015 and concluded on 11 January 2017. The Trial Chamber heard closing statements in June 2017 and the trial judgment is anticipated in the second quarter of 2018. On 27 February 2017, the Trial Chamber decided to terminate the proceedings with regard to all facts in the closing order of case 002 that were not included in cases 002/01 or 002/02. Case 002/02 will therefore be the last trial in relation to case 002.

4. In cases 003 and 004, significant progress has been made in the judicial investigations. The cases involve allegations against four charged persons. In case 003, Meas Muth was charged in March 2015, and additional charges were laid against him in December 2015. In case 004, Im Chaem and Ao An were formally charged in March 2015. Additional charges against Ao An, including genocide, were announced in March 2016. Yim Tith, the last suspect in case 004, was charged in December 2015. In case 003, the conclusion of the judicial investigation against Meas Muth was notified to the parties by the international co-investigating judge on 10 January 2017. Case 004 has been severed into three cases, one for each charged person, to guarantee the right of the charged persons to be informed of the decision on the charges brought against them without undue delay. In December 2015, the co-investigating judges notified the parties that they had concluded the judicial investigation against Im Chaem. Subsequently, the charges against her were severed into a new case file 004/01. On 22 February 2017, the co-investigating judges issued a joint dispositive closing order dismissing the case against Im Chaem because she was not subject to the personal jurisdiction of the Extraordinary Chambers. The closing order with full reasoning was issued on 10 July 2017 and the international co-prosecutor has filed a notice of appeal against the dismissal. On 16 December 2016, the co-investigating judges notified the conclusion of the judicial investigation against Ao An in case 004

and ordered the severance of the charges against him into a new case file 004/02. On 19 May 2017, they issued a forwarding order requesting the co-prosecutors to file their final submissions in case 004/02. Case 004 remains the case against Yim Tith. The co-investigating judges notified the parties that they had concluded the judicial investigations against him on 13 June 2017. In cases 003, 004/02 and 004, at the time of the notification of the conclusion of the investigation, the international co-investigating judge utilized internal rule 66 bis, which was adopted by the Court in January 2015, to reduce the scope of the judicial investigations in these cases. Decisions by the co-investigating judges on whether cases 003, 004/02 and 004 will be sent for trial are currently expected to be issued by the first quarter of 2018.

5. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 68/247 B, the Extraordinary Chambers prepared a completion plan,[1] highlighting a number of remaining procedural milestones and projecting the timelines required for judicial completion of the current caseload. The plan is updated on a quarterly basis. Given that no decision has yet been made as to whether any charged person in case 003, case 004/02 and/or case 004 will be indicted and sent for trial, it is difficult to project an overall timeline for the Court's judicial work. Nevertheless, in accordance with the completion plan, it is projected that any appeal proceedings in case 002/02 would run into the first quarter of 2020. The timelines for any additional trial(s) in cases 003, 004/02 and 004 can be projected only when the closing orders indicting or acquitting the charged persons in those cases are issued, on the basis of the number of cases going forward for trial, the number of accused and the scope and complexity of the charges against the accused.

6. The Extraordinary Chambers continue to face considerable financial challenges. It has proved difficult to attract the requisite voluntary funding to fully cover the costs of the international component in 2017. The authorization by the General Assembly of a subvention to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the international component has been essential for the work of the Court, in particular in enabling the continued operations of the Chambers during the first half of 2017. The anticipated level of voluntary contributions to the international component will require the use of about $11.0 million of the commitment authority by the end of 2017. The financial contributions from the Government of Cambodia, coupled with pledges from the international community, have stabilized the overall funding situation with respect to the national component. However, a shortfall in the amount of $536,700 remains for 2017. Given the structure of the Court, if the operation of either the national or the international component is jeopardized, the overall work of the Court is severely impeded.

## II. Progress made in the case files

### A. Case 001: Kaing Guek Eav, alias "Duch"

7. Kaing Guek Eav continues to serve the remainder of his life sentence at Kandal provincial prison, Cambodia.

### B. Case 002: Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary, Khieu Samphan, Ieng Thirith

8. On 15 September 2010, the co-investigating judges of the Extraordinary Chambers issued a closing order indicting the former Chair of the Democratic

[1] Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, completion plan, revision 13, 30 June 2017. Available from www.eccc.gov.kh/en/about-eccc/finances.

Kampuchea People's National Assembly and Deputy Secretary of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, Nuon Chea, the former Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs of Democratic Kampuchea, Ieng Sary, the former Head of State of Democratic Kampuchea, Khieu Samphan, and the former Minister of Social Affairs of Democratic Kampuchea, Ieng Thirith, for crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and genocide against the Cham and Vietnamese ethnic groups. Ieng Thirith had been found unfit to stand trial on medical grounds and remained under judicial supervision until her death in August 2015 and the subsequent termination of the proceedings. The proceedings against Ieng Sary were also terminated upon his death in March 2013.

9. The charges in case 002 have been severed into two separate cases, styled as cases 002/01 and 002/02, each with a separate trial and judgment. Case 002/01 focused on alleged crimes against humanity relating to the forced movement of the population from Phnom Penh (phase one) and later from the regions (phase two) and the alleged execution of former Khmer Republic soldiers at Tuol Po Chrey. It also considered the structure of Democratic Kampuchea, the history of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, the organizational structure of Democratic Kampuchea and the roles of the accused in relation to the policies of the Democratic Kampuchea regime relevant to all charges. Case 002/02 encompasses charges relating to genocide, forced marriage and rape, internal purges, treatment of Buddhists and targeting of former Khmer Republic officials, in addition to alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes committed at four security centres (including S-21), three worksites and a number of adjacent work cooperatives. By order of the Supreme Court Chamber of 29 July 2014, further charges not encompassed in the two cases were provisionally stayed pending appropriate disposal by the Trial Chamber. On 27 February 2017, the Trial Chamber issued a decision terminating the proceedings with regard to all facts set out in the case 002 closing order that were not included in either case 002/01 or case 002/02. Consequently, case 002 will be completed upon the final adjudication of case 002/02.

10. On 7 August 2014, the Trial Chamber delivered its judgment in the historic proceedings in case 002/01. It found that Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan had, through their participation in a joint criminal enterprise, committed the crimes against humanity of murder, political persecution and other inhumane acts (comprising forced transfers and attacks against human dignity) during the first phase of the movement of the population, political persecution and other inhumane acts (comprising forced transfers and attacks against human dignity) during the second phase of the movement of the population and murder and extermination through executions of Khmer Republic officials at Tuol Po Chrey. They were also found to have planned, instigated, aided and abetted the aforementioned crimes during the movement of the population (phases one and two) and at Tuol Po Chrey. In addition, Nuon Chea was found to have ordered the crimes and to have been responsible as a superior for all crimes committed in the course of the movement of the population and at Tuol Po Chrey. The Trial Chamber sentenced both Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan to life imprisonment.

11. In late 2014, appeals were filed against the trial judgment by the co-prosecutors, as well as by both Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, who advanced a total of 223 and 148 grounds of appeal, respectively. On 23 November 2016, the Supreme Court Chamber rendered its judgment on appeals. The Supreme Court Chamber upheld the convictions for the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution on political grounds and other inhumane acts in relation to the evacuation of Phnom Penh immediately after the fall of the city on 17 April 1975 and reversed the conviction for the crime against humanity of extermination in connection with that event. Regarding

the second phase of the population transfers that occurred between 1975 and 1977, the Chamber affirmed the convictions of both accused for the crime against humanity of other inhumane acts, entered a conviction for the crime against humanity of murder and reversed the convictions for the crimes against humanity of extermination and persecution on political grounds. While the Supreme Court Chamber confirmed that at least 250 soldiers and officials of the Khmer Republic had been executed at Tuol Po Chrey in April 1975 and crimes against humanity were likely to have occurred, the evidence was considered to be inadequate to substantiate a finding that there had been a policy to kill all Khmer Republic soldiers. As a result, the Chamber reversed the convictions for the crimes against humanity of extermination, murder and persecution on political grounds at Tuol Po Chrey. The Supreme Court Chamber considered that the imposition of a life sentence upon both Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan was appropriate and therefore confirmed the sentence imposed by the Trial Chamber. The Supreme Court Chamber also found inadmissible the appeal by the co-prosecutors seeking declaratory relief on the applicability of the most extended form of joint criminal enterprise before the Extraordinary Chambers.

12. The trial in case 002/02 opened on 17 October 2014, with presentation of evidentiary hearings commencing on 8 January 2015. On 11 January 2017, the Trial Chamber concluded the evidentiary hearings, after hearing evidence on the topics of the Tram Kok cooperatives (including the Kraing Ta Chan Security Centre and the treatment of Buddhists), the 1 January Dam worksite, the Kampong Chhnang Airport construction site, the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite, the treatment of the Cham and the Vietnamese, the Au Kanseng, Phnom Kraol and S-21 security centres and internal purges, the regulation of marriage, the nature of the armed conflict and the roles of the accused. The Chamber sat for 274 hearing days during which it heard the testimony of 114 witnesses, 63 civil parties and 8 experts. The Chamber heard the parties' closing statements between 13 and 23 June 2017. The Trial Chamber has commenced its deliberations and the trial judgment is expected in the second quarter of 2018.

## C. Cases 003 and 004

13. On 7 September 2009, the international co-prosecutor filed two introductory submissions (subsequently supplemented by further submissions) with the co-investigating judges alleging the commission of further crimes falling under the jurisdiction of the Extraordinary Chambers by five additional suspects. The crimes under investigation are genocide, crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and violations of the 1956 Penal Code of Cambodia. Of the five suspects, four have been charged. One suspect in case 003 died in 2014. Since the commencement of judicial investigations in these two cases, 269 field missions and 1,411 witness interviews have been completed. During the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, 34 field missions and 141 witness interviews were conducted.

14. Pursuant to submissions filed by the international co-prosecutor, the co-investigating judges are seized of 10 crime scenarios in case 003 and 55 crime scenarios in case 004. Under the internal rules, the co-investigating judges are legally obligated to investigate all crime scenarios of which they have been seized, although they have the authority, at the time of notification of the conclusion of a judicial investigation, to reduce the scope of a case, as long as its remaining facts are representative of the scope of the introductory submission and any supplementary submissions.

15. On 3 March 2015, the then international co-investigating judge charged Meas Muth and Im Chaem in absentia in cases 003 and 004, respectively. Meas Muth was

charged with alleged crimes against humanity, war crimes and violations of the 1956 Penal Code of Cambodia, while Im Chaem was charged with alleged crimes against humanity and violations of the 1956 Penal Code of Cambodia. Charging was undertaken in absentia, as the charged persons had ignored formal summonses and ensuing arrest warrants had not been executed. On 27 March 2015, the then international co-investigating judge charged Ao An in person in case 004 with alleged crimes against humanity and violations of the 1956 Penal Code of Cambodia. Following the charging, the charged persons have full access to the case file and can participate in the judicial investigations through their co-lawyers. On 2 June 2015, the co-investigating judges issued a decision dismissing the criminal allegations against Sou Met, until then a suspect in case 003, on account of his death in 2014. On 9 December 2015, the last remaining suspect in case 004, Yim Tith, appeared before the international co-investigating judge. He was charged with genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and violations of the 1956 Penal Code of Cambodia. On 14 December 2015, Meas Muth appeared voluntarily before the international co-investigating judge, where he was notified of additional charges, including genocide. A number of charges from the previous decision to charge him in absentia were rescinded, as was the outstanding arrest warrant.

16. On 18 December 2015, the national and international co-investigating judges notified the parties that they considered the judicial investigations against Im Chaem concluded. Noting that Im Chaem has the right to determination of the charges brought against her without undue delay, on 5 February 2016, the co-investigating judges ordered the severance of the proceedings against Im Chaem from case 004 and into a new case file, 004/01. On 14 March 2016, the international co-investigating judge expanded the charges against Ao An to include additional crimes against humanity and genocide. On 16 December 2016, the co-investigating judges notified all parties in cases 004 and 004/01 that they considered the judicial investigation against Ao An to be concluded and ordered the severance of the proceedings from case 004 and the creation of a new case file, 004/02, because the charged person has the right to be informed of the decision on the charges brought against him without undue delay. The international co-investigating judge also issued a separate decision reducing the scope of the investigation pursuant to internal rule 66 bis, constituting the first application of this rule since its adoption in January 2015.

17. On 10 January 2017, the international co-investigating judge notified all parties in case 003 that he considered the judicial investigation against Meas Muth in case 003 to be concluded and issued a separate decision reducing the scope of the judicial investigation pursuant to internal rule 66 bis. The national co-investigating judge reiterated that he had issued a notice of conclusion of the investigation in case 003 on 29 April 2011, followed by a forwarding order on 7 February 2013. On 22 February 2017, the co-investigating judges issued a joint dispositive closing order in the proceedings against Im Chaem in case 004/01. They dismissed the case because, according to their evaluation of the evidence collected during the investigation, Im Chaem is not subject to the personal jurisdiction of the Extraordinary Chambers as she was neither a senior leader nor otherwise one of the most responsible officials of the Khmer Rouge regime. On 19 May 2017, the co-investigating judges issued a forwarding order requesting the co-prosecutors to file their final submission in case 004/02 against Ao An. On 13 June 2017, the co-investigating judges notified all parties in cases 004, 004/01 and 004/02 that they considered the judicial investigation against Yim Tith in case 004 to be concluded. The international co-investigating judge issued a separate decision reducing the scope of the judicial investigation pursuant to internal rule 66 bis. On 10 July 2017, the co-investigating judges issued the closing order with full reasoning dismissing case 004/01 against Im Chaem. The international co-prosecutor filed a notice of appeal against this closing order with the Office of the

Co-Investigating Judges on 20 July 2017. On 9 August 2017 the Office of the Co-Prosecutors filed its appeal against the closing order with the Pre-Trial Chamber.

18. On 8 May 2017, the co-investigating judges released a statement informing the public that they had issued a confidential request for submissions to the parties in cases 003, 004 and 004/02 and to the Office of Administration of the Extraordinary Chambers, in which they had expressed their deep concerns about the funding situation of the Chambers and what it might mean for the future of the cases. The co-investigating judges later informed the public that they had received the submissions and were considering the arguments of the parties and of the Office of Administration regarding the request for submissions on a stay of proceedings and that a decision by the co-investigating judges was no longer expected before 30 June 2017. On 11 August 2017, the co-investigating judges issued their decision. The judges deferred the decision on a stay for the time being, but indicated that they would remain actively seized of the matter until the last closing order had been issued and would take the measures necessary to address the situation should a future lack of funds or financial uncertainty threaten judicial independence, fairness and the integrity of the proceedings. In addition, the judges invited the Office of Administration to report, on at least a quarterly basis, on the status of funding vis-à-vis the approved budget.[2]

19. The current projection in case 004/01 is that a decision on appeals against the closing order by the Pre-Trial Chamber is expected to be issued by the fourth quarter of 2017. The projection in cases 003, 004 and 004/02 is that the closing orders containing either a dismissal or an indictment will be issued by the first quarter of 2018. Decisions on any potential appeals against the closing orders by the Pre-Trial Chamber are projected to be issued by the third quarter of 2018.

## III. Completion plan and road map: projected timelines

20. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly for a completion strategy with a clear road map, the Extraordinary Chambers prepared a completion plan that details the remaining work to be completed in the proceedings of which they are currently seized. It is clarified that the current proceedings represent the entire caseload of the Extraordinary Chambers, as confirmed by the international co-prosecutor. Assessing each case individually, the plan sets out a road map in which the remaining procedural milestones are highlighted and the timelines required for the judicial completion of the current caseload are projected. The plan was first prepared in March 2014 and subsequently revised on a quarterly basis to reflect the most accurate perspective as the proceedings evolved. It also sets out a series of measures that may assist in its expeditious completion.

21. On the basis of current projections, the earliest anticipated completion of judicial proceedings in case 002 will be in the second quarter of 2018, with the delivery of a trial judgment in case 002/02, absent any appeal. The timing of the final conclusion of judicial proceedings in case 002/02 will depend on the filing of any appeal. The current projections estimate that notices of appeals and appeals against the trial judgment, if any, will be filed in the third quarter of 2018, with the judgment on these potential appeals delivered in the first quarter of 2020, bringing case 002 to a close.

22. The phases of judicial investigation are projected to conclude in 2017 for case 004/01 and in 2018 for cases 003, 004/02 and 004. In case 004/01, one milestone is

[2] A public version of the decision is available from www.eccc.gov.kh/en/document/court/combined-decision-impact-budgetary-situation-cases-003-004-and-0042-and-related-submi.

expected in 2017, namely, a decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber in the case against Im Chaem to either confirm the dismissal or to send the case to trial. The following milestones are projected to be reached in 2018 in respect of cases 003, 004/02 and 004: (a) the issuance of closing orders in the cases against Meas Muth, Ao An and Yim Tith, with a decision of the co-investigating judges to send the case to trial, in whole or in part, or to dismiss the proceedings; and (b) the disposal by the Pre-Trial Chamber of any appeals against the closing orders in the cases relating to Meas Muth, Ao An and Yim Tith, with a decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber to either confirm or amend the closing order, or to dismiss the case. Should any or all of those cases be sent for trial, in whole or in part, projections for trial timelines would then need to be assessed, taking into account the number of cases going forward for trial, the number of accused and the scope and complexity of the charges against the accused.

## IV. Current financial position and fundraising efforts

23. Previous reports of the Secretary-General have highlighted to Member States the financial challenges faced by the Extraordinary Chambers, which have persisted in 2016 and 2017. In previous years, the impacts of these challenges have included recruitment freezes and the uncertainty of staff working on month-to-month contracts, with the potential for distraction from the discharge of core functions. National component staff had gone without contracts and salaries for prolonged periods, resulting, inter alia, in a walkout by 100 staff in September 2013. Given the structure of the Extraordinary Chambers wherein national component and international component staff work side by side, the overall work of the Court was severely impeded by this action.

24. Pursuant to the Agreement between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia, the United Nations is responsible for defraying the costs of supporting the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers, while the Government of Cambodia is responsible for defraying the costs of the national component, including salaries of national personnel, utilities and service expenses of the Chambers. In its resolution 71/272, the General Assembly encouraged all Member States to provide voluntary support for both the international and national components of the Extraordinary Chambers, and requested the Secretary-General to continue his intensive efforts to obtain additional voluntary contributions, including by broadening the donor base, for funding the future activities of the Chambers.

25. **International component**. Historically, funding for the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers has been raised from a limited number of Governments each year, many of which participate in the principal donors group. In 2008, the Secretary-General designated a Special Expert on the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials to assist in fundraising for the Extraordinary Chambers. Past fundraising activities, including two pledging conferences (in 2010 and 2013), a written appeal from the Secretary-General to all Member States, bilateral requests by senior United Nations officials to donor countries and a written appeal from the then chair of the principal donors group to permanent missions of Member States in New York in 2015, were unsuccessful in generating significant new sources of funding.

26. **National component**. In the first years of operation, the national component was funded largely by voluntary contributions covering 80 per cent of the budget, with the remainder paid by the Government of Cambodia, which also provides in-kind contributions of buildings, facilities and local services. The contribution of the Government has increased significantly over the years and, since 2015, has covered over 60 per cent of the national component's requirements. In response to

the serious financial constraints on the national component, intensive efforts have been undertaken by the Extraordinary Chambers, together with senior officials of the Government of Cambodia and the Special Expert, as well as Cambodian ambassadors in foreign capitals, to jointly seek support from key Governments for the national component. As a result of those efforts, sufficient funds were raised for the national component in 2016 and 2017.

27. **Fundraising efforts in 2017**. The principal donors group, working closely with the Special Expert and Secretariat officials, continued to pursue the financial strategy developed in 2016 to broaden the donor base and to maintain the support of traditional donors. The principal donors group sent fundraising letters to a number of potential donors. The Special Expert travelled to Brussels in early January 2017 to brief the Asia-Oceania Working Party of the Council of the European Union and seek significant support from the European Union, which was secured by mid-2017. During the first half of 2017, the Special Expert continued to engage in intensive consultations with the principal donors group, a large number of missions to the United Nations and the entire diplomatic membership of the Friends of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia during consultations in Phnom Penh, as well as with the Government of Cambodia, to fund the international and national components through 2017 and secure multi-year pledges into 2018 and 2019. As a result of the strategy, sufficient contributions have been pledged to secure, with the additional assistance of the subvention from the regular budget, the operation of both the international and national components of the Chambers until the end of the year. The Secretariat has continued to pursue fundraising efforts through follow-up communications with diplomatic missions on a regular basis.

28. Despite the combined efforts of the principal donors group, the Secretariat and the Special Expert, voluntary contributions for the international component continued to decline, falling from $17.6 million in 2015 to $13.1 million in 2016 and dropping to about $10.7 million in pledges and contributions for 2017. In view of indications from the current donors, the level of voluntary contributions is expected to decline further, to about $8.5 million in 2018. The estimated income for 2018 includes $1.3 million in confirmed pledges and $7.2 million in anticipated contributions from members of the principal donors group and other traditional donors.

**Current financial position and use of the commitment authority**

29. The General Assembly approved a commitment authority of $15.54 million for the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers for 2014; these funds, however, were never drawn upon as voluntary funding eventually covered in full the international component's obligations during 2014. The Assembly again approved commitment authorities for the international component amounting to $12.1 million for 2015, $12.1 million for 2016 and $11.0 million for 2017, thus ensuring that the salaries and expenses of personnel could be paid on time and avoiding any disruption to the work of the Chambers.

30. By the end of 2016, $10.4 million in expenditures had been incurred against the amount of $10.9 million actually appropriated. The unused amount of $0.5 million of the regular budget funds provided to the Extraordinary Chambers in 2016 will be returned to the United Nations.

31. The commitment authority has functioned as a bridging financing mechanism, permitting the United Nations to extend the contracts for international officials and staff at the Extraordinary Chambers, and as a source of funds should voluntary funding fall short. Taking into account the availability of voluntary contributions and the commitment authority, the United Nations extended staff contracts in four steps in 2017: by a one-month, a five-month and two three-month periods.

32. The group of interested States approved a revised budget for 2017 amounting to $23.76 million for the international component and $6.37 million for the national component. As at 30 June 2017, voluntary contributions of $2.34 million had been received for the international component for 2017, which, together with the drawdown of an amount of $9.97 million from the commitment authority, covered the expenditures for the first six months of 2017. To meet the operational cash flow requirements of the international component in the latter six months of 2017, a further drawdown on the commitment authority and additional voluntary contributions of $8.35 million are expected. For the national component, as at 30 June 2017, voluntary contributions and pledges of $5.84 million had been received for 2017. The shortfall of $536,700 had not been secured at the time of writing the present report.

33. Taking into account that the confirmed and anticipated pledges, contributions and subvention from the regular budget are insufficient to meet the budgetary requirements, cost-saving measures have been put in place to achieve cost avoidance of at least $2 million for the international component during the year 2017, through the freezing of recruitment against vacant posts unless hiring is absolutely necessary; cost avoidance and curtailing measures in areas such as travel, operating expenses and contractual services; and the discontinuation of contracts of standby counsel, which are no longer required based on the assessment of the Trial Chamber. It should be noted that, although the above measures will yield some savings, thus ensuring that the available funding is adequate to conduct essential judicial operations, the lack of full funding for the 2017 budget has had an impact on staff morale and has contributed to staff turnover.

# V. Funding requirements of the Extraordinary Chambers for 2018-2019

34. The international component and the national component are funded separately, with the Secretariat being responsible for the receipt and management of voluntary funds for the international component and the Government of Cambodia being responsible for funding the national component, including through contributions from the international community for this purpose. The proposed budget for the biennium 2018-2019 defines all of the resources for both components, including staff resources, required to operate the Extraordinary Chambers efficiently throughout the biennium. The resource requirements of the international component of the Chambers for 2018-2019 are summarized in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1
**Financial resources for the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| *Component* | *2016 expenditure* | *2017 revised budget* | *Resource requirements for 2018-2019* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *2018* | *2019* | *Total* |
| A. Judicial offices | 8 267.5 | 8 331.1 | 6 039.4 | 3 166.3 | 9 205.7 |
| B. Defence and Victims Support Sections | 4 620.6 | 4 662.2 | 3 529.8 | 1 503.3 | 5 033.1 |
| C. Office of Administration | 10 660.8 | 10 769.7 | 8 066.0 | 5 999.7 | 14 065.7 |
| D. Provision for cases 003 and 004 | – | – | 1 297.3 | 5 352.9 | 6 650.2 |
| **Total** | **23 548.9** | **23 763.0** | **18 932.5** | **16 022.2** | **34 954.7** |

Table 2
**Post resources for the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers**

| *Category* | *2016* | *2017[a]* | *2018* | *2019* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Professional and above** | | | | |
| Judges (D-2) | 12 | 12 | 12 | 5 |
| D-1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| P-5 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| P-4 | 18 | 15 | 12 | 10 |
| P-3 | 38 | 37 | 30 | 11 |
| P-2 | 6 | 9 | 4 | – |
| **Subtotal** | **82** | **81** | **65** | **31** |
| **Other levels** | | | | |
| Field Service | 23 | 20 | 13 | 11 |
| National Professional Officer | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| General Service | 45 | 46 | 42 | 32 |
| **Subtotal** | **78** | **77** | **66** | **54** |
| **Total** | **160** | **158** | **131** | **85** |

[a] Number of posts in the 2017 revised budget, as approved by the group of interested States.

35. The proposed budget for the biennium 2018-2019 has been prepared in line with the completion plan of the Extraordinary Chambers. The most recent revision of the completion plan contains projected timelines through to the final adjudication of case 002 and through to the issuance of final closing orders on whether to send cases 003 and 004 to trial or to dismiss them. As noted in paragraph 22 above, the closing orders are currently expected by the first quarter of 2018, with decisions on potential appeals against the closing orders projected for the third quarter of 2018. In consultation with the members of the principal donor group, resource requirements for any potential trial in cases 003 and 004 have been budgeted separately, as outlined in table 1 above.

36. In 2018, resource requirements in the amount of $18.93 million would provide for the continuation of 131 posts (12 D-2, 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 12 P-4, 30 P-3, 4 P-2, 13 Field Service, 11 National Professional Officer, 42 General Service), representing a reduction of 27 posts, and for non-post items such as non-staff compensation, consultants and experts, travel of staff, travel of witnesses, contractual services, general operating expenses, supplies and furniture and equipment. In 2019, resource requirements in the amount of $16.02 million would provide for 85 positions (5 D-2, 1 D-1, 4 P-5, 10 P-4, 11 P-3, 11 Field Service, 11 National Professional Officer and 32 General Service) and for non-post operational items.

37. For 2018-2019, the total funding requirements for both the national and international components are estimated at $46.12 million ($34.96 million for the international component and $11.16 million for the national component). On the international side, at the time of writing the present report, the Secretariat had received pledges in the amount of $1.3 million, with anticipated pledges amounting to $7.2 million for 2018 based on indications from the traditional donors. Based on the pattern of contributions in the period 2016-2017, it is expected that resources will be pledged incrementally and in varied amounts, with insufficient fund balances available at any given time to ensure staff contracts of a reasonable

duration. The operational reserve of $4.2 million that had accumulated since the Chambers' inception was fully depleted in 2012 to meet staff payroll costs and remains at zero. With continuing shortfalls in voluntary contributions, the Secretariat has been unable to reinstate any reserve, and thus has no funding mechanism to address unforeseen operational contingencies.

38. To address the above-mentioned situation, the Secretary-General is proposing a subvention of $10.4 million for the international component for the year 2018. The level of the requested subvention takes into account the 2018 portion of the proposed budget for the biennium 2018-2019, the estimated voluntary contributions of $8.5 million in 2018 and the fact that the financial situation of the Extraordinary Chambers has not improved. The level of the requested subvention reflects the financial resources necessary to secure the operation of the Chambers during 2018, with the assumption that the proposed budget for 2018-2019 would be approved by the group of interested States. Should the proposed budget be approved at a different level, updated information on any adjustments to the budget or the consequent adjustment to the proposed level of subvention will be provided to the General Assembly. The proposed subvention will allow the Chambers to remain operational, pending the receipt of the additional voluntary contributions necessary for operations throughout the year. The Secretary-General proposes that the subvention be available to be drawn upon, should the extrabudgetary funds on hand be insufficient to meet the international component's salary and operational costs. Cognizant of the difficulties of securing funds through voluntary contributions and the need to ensure the expeditious completion of the remaining cases, the Secretary-General will continue his intensive fundraising efforts. While the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was of the view that the decision to appropriate an amount for the international component for 2017 would undermine the voluntary nature of the current funding arrangements and related fundraising efforts (A/71/550, para. 28), in view of the financial situation of the Chambers, the Secretary-General is proposing a subvention to be appropriated in order to avoid a negative impact on the cash flow of the Organization. Intensive fundraising efforts will be continued, given the voluntary nature of the funding arrangement, and any unused portion of the subvention that the General Assembly may approve will be returned.

39. Despite the improvement in the situation of the national component in recent years, the timing of contributions remains an important factor and the overall funding remains uncertain for 2018 and beyond. The current estimated requirements for the national component for 2018-2019 amount to $11.16 million, representing $5.79 million for 2018 and $5.37 million for 2019. While the Government of Cambodia is responsible under the Agreement with the United Nations to raise funding for the entire national component, the provision by the Government of Cambodia of $4.1 million in 2015, $4.15 million in 2016 and the same amount in 2017 represents a significant increase compared with previous years. The Government has reiterated its strong commitment to the work of the Extraordinary Chambers and to addressing its funding challenges. The United Nations will also continue to support the Government in seeking to obtain additional voluntary contributions from the international community for the national component. As has been seen in previous years, any funding shortfall on either side is likely to seriously affect the activities of the Chambers as a whole.

## VI. Conclusions

40. **The Secretary-General welcomes the important progress made by the Extraordinary Chambers across all sets of current proceedings in the year since the last report. In this context, and bearing in mind the essential mandate**

of the Chambers, the Secretary-General notes the continuing importance of conducting all judicial proceedings before the Chambers in a manner that conforms with the terms of the Agreement establishing the Chambers.

41. Following the judgments in cases 001 and 002/01, substantial progress has been made during 2017 in the landmark trial in case 002/02. Evidentiary hearings were completed, the parties' closing statements were heard and the Trial Chamber has commenced deliberations. The judgment on appeals of the Supreme Court Chamber in case 002/01 was delivered in November 2016, thereby bringing that case to a close. Judicial investigations in cases 003 and 004 have reached key milestones with the dismissal by the co-investigating judges of the case against Im Chaem in case 004/01 and the conclusion of the investigation in cases 003, 004/02 and 004.

42. The Secretary-General commends the judicial officials and staff of the two components of the Extraordinary Chambers for their sustained commitment and dedication in fulfilling the challenging but essential mandate of the Chambers.

43. The Secretary-General welcomes the provision of the majority of the budget of the national component by the Government of Cambodia in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and acknowledges the commitment to the success of the Extraordinary Chambers shown by the Government. At the same time, the Secretary-General is concerned that the Chambers face persisting financial challenges and that the situation has worsened in this regard over the past three years. It remains clear that the current funding mechanisms of the Chambers are not sustainable without additional assistance over the long term.

44. It remains critical for the international community to ensure that the Extraordinary Chambers have the necessary financial means to ensure full accountability, within the scope of their mandate, for the crimes perpetrated during the former Khmer Rouge regime. A financial failure of the Chambers would constitute a renewed tragedy in the quest for justice of the people of Cambodia, who have waited four decades for these efforts to reach belated fruition, and would constitute a serious setback to the international community's fight against impunity.

## VII. Recommendations

45. The Secretary-General requests the General Assembly:

(a) To take note of the present report and the use of the commitment authority approved for 2017;

(b) To take note of the resource requirements of the Extraordinary Chambers for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018, estimated at $18,932,500 for the international component of the Chambers to continue to fulfil its judicial mandate;

(c) To appropriate an amount of $10,418,800 by way of subvention for 2018 for the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.

# Annex

## Financial status of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

### A. International component: United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials

Table A.1
**Financial status of the international component as at 31 December 2016**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | |
|---|---|
| A. Income | |
| Contributions received from 2005 to 2016 | 198 474.4 |
| Interest earned from 2005 to 2016 and other adjustments | 4 712.5 |
| **Subtotal** | **203 186.9** |
| B. Expenditure[a] | (224 273.0) |
| **Fund balance (shortfall)[b]** | **(21 086.1)** |

[a] Includes a grant of $3,255,000 in 2013 and loans of $780,000 in 2014 to the national component to cover salary costs. These costs are also reflected in the national component tables.
[b] The shortfall was covered by the regular budget subvention for 2015 ($10,678,400) and 2016 ($10,407,700).

Table A.2
**Financial status of the international component for 2017 and projection for 2018**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | |
|---|---|
| **A. Income for 2017** | |
| Contributions received for 2017 | 2 338.6 |
| Outstanding pledges for 2017[a] | 8 350.1 |
| Anticipated pledges for 2017 | – |
| **Subtotal** | **10 688.7** |
| **B. Revised budget for 2017** | **(23 763.0)** |
| **C. Estimated shortfall for 2017** | **(13 074.3)** |
| **D. Income for 2018** | |
| Outstanding pledges for 2018[b] | 1 328.7 |
| Anticipated pledges for 2018 | 7 185.0 |
| **Subtotal** | **8 513.7** |
| **E. Estimated requirements for 2018[c]** | **(18 932.5)** |
| **F. Estimated shortfall for 2018** | **(10 418.8)** |

[a] Australia ($A 3,250,000 revalued as at 30 June 2017), European Union (€2,000,000 revalued as at 30 June 2017), Finland (€100,000 revalued as at 30 June 2017), Japan (US$ 1,221,818), Norway (NKr 4,000,000 revalued as at 30 June 2017) and United Kingdom (£225,000 revalued as at 30 June 2017).
[b] Sweden (SKr 7,000,000 revalued as at 30 June 2017) and Germany (€450,000 revalued as at 30 June 2017).
[c] 2018 budget figures are subject to change pending review and approval of the proposed budget by the group of interested States.

## Indicative resource requirements for the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials

Table A.3.1
**Requirements by component and funding availability, international component**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

| *Component* | *1 January-31 December 2016 (actual)* | *1 January-31 December 2017 (revised budget)* | *1 January-31 December 2018 (proposed budget)* | *1 January-31 December 2019 (proposed budget)* | *2018-2019 (proposed budget)[a]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Judicial offices | 8 267.5 | 8 331.1 | 6 039.4 | 3 166.3 | 9 205.7 |
| B. Defence and Victims Support Sections | 4 620.6 | 4 662.2 | 3 529.8 | 1 503.3 | 5 033.1 |
| C. Office of Administration | 10 660.8 | 10 769.7 | 8 066.0 | 5 999.7 | 14 065.7 |
| D. Provision for cases 003 and 004 | – | – | 1 297.3 | 5 352.9 | 6 650.2 |
| **Total expenditure** | **23 548.9** | **23 763.0** | **18 932.5** | **16 022.2** | **34 954.7** |
| Balance brought forward | – | – | – | – | – |
| Pledges and contributions | 13 141.2 | 10 688.7 | 8 513.7 | – | 8 513.7 |
| **Total income** | **13 141.2** | **10 688.7** | **8 513.7** | **–** | **8 513.7** |
| **Surplus/(shortfall)** | **(10 407.7)** | **(13 074.3)** | **(10 418.8)** | **(16 022.2)** | **(26 441.0)** |

[a] 2018-2019 budget figures are subject to change pending review and approval of the proposed budget by the group of interested States.

Table A.3.2
**Requirements by object of expenditure and funding availability, international component**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

| *Object of expenditure* | *1 January-31 December 2016 (actual)* | *1 January-31 December 2017 (revised budget)* | *1 January-31 December 2018 (proposed budget)* | *1 January-31 December 2019 (proposed budget)* | *2018-2019 (proposed budget)[a]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Posts | 14 126.7 | 14 576.4 | 9 850.2 | 7 229.5 | 17 079.7 |
| Non-staff compensation | 2 003.8 | 2 402.1 | 2 472.0 | 2 003.0 | 4 475.0 |
| Other staff costs | 100.4 | – | 956.8 | 3 473.5 | 4 430.3 |
| Consultants and experts | 5 497.6 | 4 717.0 | 3 995.3 | 2 138.0 | 6 133.3 |
| Travel of staff | 80.8 | 53.1 | 60.7 | 60.6 | 121.3 |
| Travel of witnesses | 48.3 | 64.5 | 54.1 | 56.4 | 110.5 |
| Contractual services | 802.0 | 1 054.9 | 866.3 | 485.8 | 1 352.1 |
| General operating expenses | 343.0 | 495.4 | 283.1 | 283.8 | 566.9 |
| Supplies | 203.2 | 189.2 | 140.2 | 144.2 | 284.4 |
| Furniture and equipment | 343.1 | 210.4 | 253.8 | 147.4 | 401.2 |
| **Total expenditure** | **23 548.9** | **23 763.0** | **18 932.5** | **16 022.2** | **34 954.7** |
| Balance brought forward | – | – | – | – | – |
| Pledges and contributions | 13 141.2 | 10 688.7 | 8 513.7 | – | 8 513.7 |
| **Total income** | **13 141.2** | **10 688.7** | **8 513.7** | **–** | **8 513.7** |
| **Surplus/(shortfall)** | **(10 407.7)** | **(13 074.3)** | **(10 418.8)** | **(16 022.2)** | **(26 441.0)** |

[a] 2018-2019 budget figures are subject to change pending review and approval of the proposed budget by the group of interested States.

## B. National component: Cambodia

Table A.4
**Financial status of the national component as at 31 December 2016**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | |
|---|---|
| A. Income | |
| Contributions received from 2005 to 2016 | 68 729.0 |
| B. Expenditure | (68 690.3) |
| **Fund balance** | **38.7** |

Table A.5
**Financial status of the national component for 2017 and the projection for 2018**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | |
|---|---|
| **A. Income for 2017** | |
| Cash balance brought forward as at 1 January 2017 | 38.7 |
| Contributions received for 2017 | 4 209.4 |
| Outstanding pledges for 2017[a] | 1 587.0 |
| Anticipated pledges for 2017 | – |
| **Subtotal** | **5 835.1** |
| **B. Revised budget for 2017** | **(6 371.8)** |
| **C. Estimated shortfall for 2017** | **(536.7)** |
| **D. Income for 2018** | |
| Outstanding pledges for 2018 | – |
| Anticipated pledges for 2018 | – |
| **Subtotal** | **–** |
| **E. Estimated requirements for 2018** | **5 790.1** |
| **F. Estimated shortfall for 2018** | **(5 790.1)** |

[a] €1,500,000 from the European Union (inclusive of programme support costs).

### Indicative resource requirements for the national component

Table A.6.1
**Requirements by component and funding availability**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

| *Component* | *1 January-31 December 2016 (actual)* | *1 January-31 December 2017 (revised budget)* | *1 January-31 December 2018 (proposed budget)* | *1 January-31 December 2019 (proposed budget)* | *2018-2019 (proposed budget)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Judicial offices | 1 725.4 | 1 590.3 | 1 183.1 | 663.1 | 1 846.2 |
| B. Defence and Victims Support Sections | 459.8 | 476.1 | 327.9 | 346.9 | 674.8 |
| C. Office of Administration | 4 366.1 | 4 305.4 | 4 096.2 | 3 930.6 | 8 026.8 |

| *Component* | *1 January-31 December 2016 (actual)* | *1 January-31 December 2017 (revised budget)* | *1 January-31 December 2018 (proposed budget)* | *1 January-31 December 2019 (proposed budget)* | *2018-2019 (proposed budget)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D. Provision for cases 003 and 004 | – | – | 182.9 | 433.7 | 616.6 |
| **Total expenditure** | **6 551.3** | **6 371.8** | **5 790.1** | **5 374.3** | **11 164.4** |
| Balance brought forward | 85.0 | 38.7 | – | – | – |
| Pledges and contributions | 6 505.0 | 5 796.4 | – | – | – |
| **Total income** | **6 590.0** | **5 835.1** | **–** | **–** | **–** |
| **Surplus/(shortfall)** | **38.7** | **(536.7)** | **(5 790.1)** | **(5 374.3)** | **(11 164.4)** |

Table A.6.2
**Post requirements**

| *Category* | *2016* | *2017* | *2018* | *2019* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Professional and above** | | | | |
| D-1 (judges and Director of Administration) | 15 | 15 | 15 | 6 |
| P-5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| NPO-D | 22 | 22 | 20 | 17 |
| NPO-C | 17 | 16 | 16 | 10 |
| NPO-B/NPO-A | 19 | 19 | 17 | 13 |
| Subtotal | 74 | 73 | 69 | 47 |
| Other levels | | | | |
| General Service | 111 | 110 | 91 | 83 |
| **Subtotal** | **111** | **110** | **91** | **83** |
| **Total** | **185** | **183** | **160** | **130** |

*Abbreviation*: NPO, National Professional Officer (A, B, C and D reflect levels within the category).

Table A.6.3
**Requirements by object of expenditure and funding availability**

| *Object of expenditure* | *1 January-31 December 2016 (actual)* | *1 January-31 December 2017 (revised budget)* | *1 January-31 December 2018 (proposed budget)* | *1 January-31 December 2019 (proposed budget)* | *2018-2019 (proposed budget)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Posts | 3 253.8 | 3 489.2 | 2 927.8 | 2 605.4 | 5 533.2 |
| Non-staff compensation | 902.1 | 749.8 | 760.3 | 608.9 | 1 369.2 |
| Other staff costs | 314.7 | 269.2 | 271.2 | 321.3 | 592.5 |
| Consultants and experts | 141.7 | 143.5 | 107.2 | 141.8 | 249.0 |
| Travel of staff | 48.8 | 49.3 | 19.6 | 21.6 | 41.2 |
| Contractual services | 1 313.6 | 986.5 | 1 083.1 | 1 121.5 | 2 204.6 |
| General operating expenses | 442.3 | 482.6 | 444.9 | 423.0 | 867.9 |
| Hospitality | 26.6 | 29.4 | 27.2 | 27.2 | 54.4 |
| Premises alternation | 52.6 | 101.1 | 95.7 | 56.5 | 152.2 |

| *Object of expenditure* | *1 January-31 December 2016 (actual)* | *1 January-31 December 2017 (revised budget)* | *1 January-31 December 2018 (proposed budget)* | *1 January-31 December 2019 (proposed budget)* | *2018-2019 (proposed budget)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Training and meetings | 55.1 | 71.2 | 53.1 | 47.1 | 100.2 |
| **Total** | **6 551.3** | **6 371.8** | **5 790.1** | **5 374.3** | **11 164.4** |
| Balance brought forward | 85.0 | 38.7 | – | – | – |
| Pledges and contributions | 6 505.0 | 5 796.4 | – | – | – |
| **Total income** | **6 590.0** | **5 835.1** | **–** | **–** | **–** |
| **Surplus/(shortfall)** | **38.7** | **(536.7)** | **(5 790.1)** | **(5 374.3)** | **(11 164.4)** |

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**Seventy-second session**
Item 77 of the provisional agenda*
**Report of the International Criminal Court**

# Information relevant to the implementation of article 3 of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 71/253, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to include information relevant to the implementation of article 3 of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court in a report to be submitted to the Assembly at its seventy-second session.

* A/72/150.

17-14154 (E) 210817

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1. Article 3 of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court provides as follows: "The United Nations and the Court agree that, with a view to facilitating the effective discharge of their respective responsibilities, they shall cooperate closely, whenever appropriate, with each other and consult each other on matters of mutual interest pursuant to the provisions of the present Agreement and in conformity with the respective provisions of the Charter and the Statute."

2. During the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, the United Nations cooperated extensively with the Court pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement. In October 2016, the Organization marked the twelfth anniversary of the entry into force of the Agreement. It continued to work closely with the Court in order to further strengthen its relationship and to ensure the effective implementation of the Agreement.

3. In the field of institutional relations, addressed in chapter II of the Agreement, the United Nations provided to the Court a range of services and facilities, including reimbursable loans; support on local salary survey work; payroll costs for staff assigned to work exclusively on matters pertaining to the Court; access to the United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisition Consortium; field security services; audio and visual services; broadcast and conference support services; communications, fuel and other miscellaneous services; rent and utilities services; travel and transportation services for Court personnel; logistics and delivery services; provision of laissez-passer and certificates; mailing services; and High-level Committee on Management, language proficiency examination and Human Resources Network services. The services were all provided on a reimbursable basis in accordance with the Agreement and General Assembly resolution 58/318.

4. In the field of cooperation and judicial assistance, addressed in chapter III of the Agreement, the Organization provided extensive assistance to the Court in the period under review, especially in the form of access to the Organization's records and archives and the making available of a number of United Nations personnel for interview by the prosecution in connection with certain situations before the Court and with certain situations under preliminary examination by the Prosecutor. Requests for testimony by several United Nations personnel received during the reporting period were also accommodated.

5. In addition to cooperation extended by the United Nations to the Court pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement, the United Nations makes every effort to refrain from any actions that would frustrate the activities of the Court and its various organs, including the Prosecutor, or undermine the authority of their decisions. Further to the issuance by the Secretary-General of guidance on contacts between United Nations personnel and persons who are the subject of arrest warrants or summonses issued by the Court (see A/67/828-S/2013/210), United Nations officials continued to implement the policy on essential contacts. In accordance with practice, the Legal Counsel informs the Prosecutor and the President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of any meetings with persons who are the subject of arrest warrants issued by the Court that are considered necessary for the performance of essential activities mandated by the United Nations.

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**Seventy-second session**
Item 74 (a) of the provisional agenda*
**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations**

# International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report is submitted in compliance with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/209. It provides a status report on the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan.

* A/72/150.

17-14156 (E) 290817

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# I. Introduction

1. In support of the efforts of Kazakhstan to recover from the devastating consequences of nuclear testing at the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, the General Assembly adopted eight resolutions between 1997 and 2014 (resolutions 52/169 M, 53/1 H, 55/44, 57/101, 60/216, 63/279, 66/193 and 69/209), calling on donor States and international development organizations to support the efforts of the country in improving the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region.[1]

2. In its latest resolution, 69/209, the General Assembly urged the international community to assist Kazakhstan in formulating and implementing special programmes and projects for the treatment and care of the affected population and in its efforts to ensure economic growth and sustainable development in the Semipalatinsk region. It also requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", on progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

3. To that end, the present report summarizes the progress made from 2014 to 2016 in the implementation of resolution 69/209 in the Semipalatinsk region by the Government of Kazakhstan, the United Nations and the international community.

4. The purpose of the present report is to outline the actions taken and progress made by the Government of Kazakhstan, United Nations agencies and the international community in addressing the social, economic and ecological challenges in the rehabilitation and development of the Semipalatinsk region.

# II. Context

5. In 1989, after 40 years of atmospheric and underground nuclear explosions, all testing ceased at the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, the primary testing ground of the Soviet nuclear arsenal. The test site, often referred to as the Polygon, witnessed 456 nuclear explosions that released energy equivalent to approximately 2,500 Hiroshima atomic bombs. In addition, 175 chemical-substance detonations were conducted in the tunnels of the Polygon in the period from 1961 to 1989. The Polygon is the only test site in the world where the residential areas in the proximity of the nuclear explosions were not relocated away from the radiation fallout territories.

6. In 1989, the first Soviet anti-nuclear movement was formed as a reaction to the devastating effects of the nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk. The movement, known as Nevada-Semipalatinsk, gained vast support from all layers of society. On 29 August 1991, the nuclear test site was officially closed.

7. On 16 December 1991, Kazakhstan declared its independence while concurrently embarking on the road to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Throughout the years of its independence, the leadership and the people of the country have gained significant international recognition for their remarkable commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free world.

8. In 2014, reiterating the nation's firm commitment to nuclear security, the Government of Kazakhstan adopted a new foreign policy concept, which states that Kazakhstan "puts all efforts to achieving a world order free of nuclear weapons and

[1] The Semipalatinsk region refers to the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site located in the East Kazakhstan region. In 2007, the town of Semipalatinsk was renamed Semey.

other weapons of mass destruction; participates in development of multilateral mechanisms for a comprehensive ban and destruction of such weapons, as well as in creation of zones free of nuclear weapons".

9. In 2014, Kazakhstan marked the twentieth anniversary of its accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and used various international platforms to promote the universalization of the Treaty. From 2014 to 2016, representatives of the Government of Kazakhstan and the ATOM Project (Abolish Testing. Our Mission)[2] showed their strong commitment to this cause by petitioning the nations of the world to make stronger efforts towards global nuclear non-proliferation and to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Throughout the period, the Government of Kazakhstan and civil society organized numerous international events with the aim of galvanizing global public opinion against nuclear-weapon testing and nuclear weapons at large. By the end of 2016, the ATOM Project's online petition for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty had been signed by more than 300,000 people worldwide.

10. In 2014, at the third Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, the delegation of Kazakhstan distributed a new edition of the brochure "Building a nuclear safe world: the Kazakhstan way", which seeks to highlight the nation's enduring work to achieve nuclear security and a ban on nuclear testing and to rid the world of nuclear weapons. In 2015, Astana hosted a major international seminar on the theme "Reducing global security threats: lessons from Kazakhstan". The seminar focused on the history of the Cooperative Threat Reduction programme, better known as the Nunn-Lugar programme, and provided a platform for discussing progress and accumulating lessons learned from international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation processes.

11. In 2015, as an act of solidarity with the victims of nuclear disasters, Kazakhstan allocated 1 million euros to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund, provided more than $1 million in total voluntary contributions to the Nuclear Security Fund of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and allocated an additional $325,000 to the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative.

12. In 2016, Astana hosted an international conference on building a nuclear-weapon-free world, with the aim of strengthening international political commitments to prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons. The conference also established the Nazarbayev Prize for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World and Global Security, an international prize in recognition of contributions to global nuclear disarmament by world leaders and activists. The first recipient of the award was King Abdullah II of Jordan. The event was accompanied by nationwide educational and memorial activities dedicated to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the closing of the Semipalatinsk test site, which is also the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

13. From 2014 to 2016, Kazakhstan continued to implement national strategies and programmes for the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region and received international assistance for the implementation of specific national programmes in the region.

[2] Established by the Nazarbayev Centre in 2012, the ATOM Project is an international campaign and a multifunctional research and educational public institution. The primary goal of the campaign is to build international support for the abolishment of nuclear testing. It also aims to achieve the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty through online petitions and other methods.

## III. Policy framework and Government programmes of assistance to the Semipalatinsk region

14. The Government of Kazakhstan relies on a number of national programmes and strategies, as well as targeted initiatives in the East Kazakhstan region, for assisting the Semipalatinsk region.

15. The Kazakhstan-2030 strategy outlines a long-term plan with the aim of transforming the country into one of the safest, most stable and ecologically sustainable States in the world, including a dynamically developing economy. The strategy prioritizes economic growth based on an open-market economy with a high level of foreign investments in the health, education and well-being of citizens and the development of infrastructure. The implementation of the strategy has been under way throughout the country, including in Semipalatinsk.

16. In 2016, the opening of a bridge across the Irtysh River in the Pavlodar region is an example of how the Kazakhstan-2030 strategy is being implemented in practice. The bridge is part of a major road-construction project that will connect Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation. Passing through the regions affected by nuclear testing, the project has already created more than 3,000 new jobs and, through improved connectivity of the East Kazakhstan region, is expected to have positive economic effects on the region at large.

17. The State programme of forced industrial and innovative development seeks to establish stable and well-balanced economic growth by diversifying and improving economic competitiveness. The nationwide programme has had visible effects on the Semipalatinsk region. The official statistical data for the period from 2014 to 2016 indicates that the region has been benefiting from the programme in several economic sectors. As an example, the Semipalatinsk region has witnessed steady growth of industrial and agricultural outputs, as well as a more significant, 36 per cent increase in production in the extraction industry.

18. The State health-care development programme and cancer care development plan provide strategic guidance and financial support for building the capacity of health-care professionals and for the establishment of regional radiation oncology centres in Astana, Almaty, Semey, Aktobe and Karaganda. The implementation of those plans is expected to improve cancer care, reduce cancer mortalities and improve the quality of life of citizens in the Semipalatinsk and other regions of the country.

19. The State programme for ensuring radiation safety at the adjacent territories of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site has been implemented by the National Nuclear Centre in the territories affected by radiation. Under the framework of the programme, territories of the nuclear test site are being examined and analysed for radiation and are assessed for their safety for the population and their suitability for economic exploitation.

20. The main official mechanism providing social care, medical support and financial benefits to the people affected by the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site is the law of 1992 on the social protection of citizens affected by nuclear tests in the Semipalatinsk nuclear test Polygon.

21. A five-year joint programme between the Government of Kazakhstan and United Nations agencies concluded in 2016. Building on the strategic development plan of Kazakhstan for 2020 and other national strategic documents, the programme sought to enhance national capacities to address sectoral challenges in the areas of health, economic development, social protection and good governance.

22. In recent years, the drop in oil prices has caused a steep depreciation of the tenge, the currency of Kazakhstan, an increase in the inflation rate and a reduction of the purchasing power of the population. Increasing prices, declining real wages and lower employment opportunities have had a negative effect on the economy, most notably on low-income households and vulnerable layers of population. The country is slowly recovering from those economic shocks, however, and is demonstrating gradual socioeconomic progress in many sectors.

23. Kazakhstan made good progress in implementing the Millennium Development Goals and is well positioned to champion the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Senate of the Parliament adopted a statement reaffirming the country's commitment to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and to "leaving no one behind". The Government, with assistance from the United Nations country team, is working to map the Sustainable Development Goals against the national policy documents and tailor them to the national development context.

## A. Health care

24. In 2015, an emergency hospital with the capacity to treat 325 patients and handle 500 visits per day opened in Semey. The hospital, which was built under the Government's "100 schools, 100 hospitals" programme, is expected to further reduce maternal and infant mortality in the region, as well as to provide oncology services and treatment for cardiovascular morbidity.

25. In addition, a family outpatient clinic opened in Prirechnoe village in the East Kazakhstan region. The clinic, which hosts 16 doctors and nurses, will provide health-care services to the residents of Prirechnoe, Muzdybay and Zharkyn villages. The clinic was financed from the budget of the State health-care development programme, which is aimed at improving the social and demographic development of the country.

26. In 2014, the Government of Kazakhstan adopted a plan for special measures to improve the social protection of citizens affected by nuclear tests in the Semipalatinsk region. One of the measures entailed retrospective and prospective analysis of the medical and radioecological impact of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site on the population of the surrounding areas. The research, which was conducted from 2014 to 2016, produced specific recommendations for enhancing social and medical protection mechanisms for those groups most at risk of being affected by radiation. Among the recommendations were that children born of radiation-affected parents should be included in the risk group that is entitled to State support and that the duration and proportion of medical support should be evaluated individually and be based on the amount and effect of radiation to which each person was subjected. In addition, a list of possible health complications was produced as a point of reference for assessing the effects of radiation on second and third generations of people, with the aim of improving the provision of social services to the children and grandchildren of those who lived or live in the Semipalatinsk region.

## B. Economic development

### Transferring lands at the former Semipalatinsk test site for economic use

27. As part of the activities to secure the safety of the former Semipalatinsk test site, the National Nuclear Centre continued its integrated ecological examination of the south and south-eastern parts of the site from 2014 to 2016. The study covered

an area of 3,150 $km^2$, which is 650 $km^2$ more than during the previous reporting period. In 2016, an examination was initiated for an additional 1,200 $km^2$ of the test site not covered by past assessments. According to the results of those studies, the examined lands did not contain harmful traces of radiation and the entire 3,150-$km^2$ territory was recommended for full economic exploitation.

## C. Environment

**Remediating polluted sites**

28. With a view to alleviating the effects of radiation at the nuclear test site, remediation (restoration) activities were carried out at sites polluted by radiation from 2014 to 2016. Remediation works were conducted over an area of 4.05 $km^2$ at the Opytnoe Pole platform site, where, as a result of the cleaning and treatment of radionuclide-contaminated soils, a significant decrease in surface radiation was achieved. By preventing the wind from spreading radioactive soil any further, the remediation is expected to have a positive effect on the ecology of the region.

29. Under the auspices of the State programme for ensuring radiation safety at the adjacent territories of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, monitoring of the local environment (water, air and flora) was conducted over a territory of 340 $km^2$ in and around residential areas in Beskaragay and Kanonerka in Beskaragay district, East Kazakhstan region. According to the findings, most of the territories did not exceed the standard limit of radiation and no harm was posed to local residents. With the exception of isolated cases of surface contamination, most of the land has been deemed safe for economic and agricultural use.

## D. Education

30. In 2016, to commemorate the closing of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, the Government of Kazakhstan and local activists conducted country-wide seminars and awareness-raising events related to global nuclear threats. The activities also sought to improve public knowledge of the devastating effects of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. One such activity, organized in Karaganda, was dedicated to the effects of the Semipalatinsk test site and the achievements of Kazakhstan in the sphere of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The main target audience of the forum were young people from the 17 different universities that participated in the event online.

31. From 2014 to 2016, in order to improve the environmental awareness of young people in the East Kazakhstan region, the Children's Biological Centre of Semey, in collaboration with local preschools, elementary schools and other educational institutions, organized annual ecological summer camps and several recreational and educational activities for children of the region. The centre has won multiple awards and is recognized for its commitments to environmental safety and education.

32. In 2016, the Office of the Ombudsman for Children's Rights was established by an order of the President. Fifteen dialogue platforms were created and work on a permanent basis to support the Government in fulfilling its child rights obligations and address the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2015. At the national conference on the theme "Child-friendly Kazakhstan" in November 2016, national and international experts gathered to share best practices in the child rights agenda and plan for the future. At the dialogue platform on the theme "Children and the environment", experts from Parliament, ministries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) gathered to develop a number of recommendations, including on addressing the issues of children living in the Semey area, for stakeholders to consider.

# IV. United Nations and international assistance to the Semipalatinsk region

### United Nations joint programme

33. In 2016, a five-year joint programme between the Government of Kazakhstan and four United Nations agencies, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Volunteers, concluded with noteworthy results for the development of the East Kazakhstan region and the well-being of the vulnerable people of the regions affected by the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. The programme, entitled "Raising competitiveness of the region through innovative approaches to regional planning and social services", had a total budget of $11,651,365, of which the Government contributed $9,816,365.

34. The programme built the capacities of local executive and legislative bodies for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of regional programmes, while promoting better protection of the rights and interests of local residents by Government institutions. The programme improved access to social and economic services for vulnerable groups in Semey, Kurchatov, Ust-Kamenogorsk and other areas affected by nuclear testing in the East Kazakhstan region and empowered regional communities to actively participate in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of local programmes.

35. Although it is too early to assess several results of the programmatic activities and continuous monitoring thereof is required, some noteworthy results and achievements had been identified by the end of the programme, as outlined below.

36. The central authorities of Kazakhstan recognize that the positive achievements of the East Kazakhstan region in developing and improving local self-governance mechanisms can serve as a model for replication in other regions of the country. The experience of the region was actively adopted during the preparation of the law on public councils, which incorporated methods and positive examples in public administration, strategic planning, monitoring, budgeting and implementation of State programmes in the region. In 2015, the law was signed into effect by the President as part of the ongoing institutional reforms in the country. In 2016, according to official statistics and development indicators, the Akimat (Office of the Regional Governor) of the East Kazakhstan region continued to be one of the better performing regional self-governance offices in the country, while in 2012 it came last in the country-wide assessment.

37. In collaboration with local NGOs and volunteers, the programme provided financial grants to social projects, increased the capacities of health and social workers, teachers and psychologists, improved the awareness of the population of social and economic opportunities and established new networks for regional peer support and information-sharing. As a result, vulnerable groups from Semey, Kurchatov, Ust-Kamenogorsk and the districts affected by nuclear testing in the East Kazakhstan region gained improved access to social and economic services in the region.

38. Opportunities for establishing and developing business activities among existing and aspiring entrepreneurs were improved through a series of capacity-building and awareness-raising initiatives and the provision of financial and technological support to male and female entrepreneurs in the East Kazakhstan region.

39. The mother and child health-care centre in Ust-Kamenogorsk was transformed into a multifaceted centre, providing high-quality medical assistance and early

detection of developmental delays and becoming a resource and methodological centre on effective perinatal care for other maternity and children's hospitals in the East Kazakhstan region. Through the introduction of international methods of assessment and specialized training, the level of knowledge and skills of health professionals in providing services to children and mothers has increased and the quality of the nursing system for pregnant women and mothers with newborn children has improved. Those developments eventually contributed to a gradual decline in the infant mortality rate in the region. When the programme was in effect, the East Kazakhstan region witnessed a 50 per cent decline in the infant mortality rate, in contrast to 2010 when it was the region with the second highest rate, with 20 deaths per 1,000 live births. In addition, the maternal mortality rate decreased from 21.6 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010 to only 13.4 in 2015.

40. All social workers and psychologists in primary health-care centres in Semey and the staff of an infant home received methodological capacity-building training for identifying and dealing with families at risk of abandoning a child. The working procedures developed by the programme were institutionalized and became part of the current statutory practice for the assessment and provision of assistance to such families. During the programme implementation period, more than 128 cases were identified and successfully handled by the local specialists, representing more than 50 per cent of the vulnerable families identified as being at risk of abandoning a child (360 families).

41. A pilot violence prevention programme in seven schools and three educational institutions in the East Kazakhstan region was implemented successfully. The programme offered school staff the knowledge and tools to identify and respond to incidents of school violence in a way that encourages behavioural change and accountability. The teachers, students and parents were provided with a guide to improve their understanding of their role in identifying and treating cases of violence among and against children. Following the achievements of the programme in the region, similar guides and actions were adopted in Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions, as well as in Almaty.

42. The programme supported local authorities by introducing new social work methods in justice systems and testing alternatives to imprisonment for young people. As a result, 144 adolescents in contact with the law, including witnesses and victims of crime, and 76 families were provided with access to sociopedagogical, psychological and legal services to foster their rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. The newly established diversion centre in the town of Ust-Kamenogorsk became one of the first facilities in the country to provide rehabilitation, psychological and social services to children in conflict with the law. The experience has been shared with other regions of Kazakhstan, and similar centres were established in Zyryanovsk in the East Kazakhstan region and in Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions.

43. With the aim of reducing juvenile reoffending, a youth-friendly and methodologically sound probation service was tested in the East Kazakhstan region. The programme extended its support to specialized juvenile courts and probation offices by equipping and opening youth-friendly rooms in compliance with international standards. The capacities of local juvenile judges, local authorities and NGO representatives were enhanced, the existing coordination and inter-agency cooperation mechanism on child rights and justice for children was further strengthened and alternative probation practices for children in conflict with the law were introduced. All those initiatives contributed to a decrease of more than 50 per cent in the number of crimes committed by young people in the East Kazakhstan region.

44. Children living in disaster-prone areas of the East Kazakhstan region participated in the disaster risk reduction programme supported by United Nations agencies and co-funded by the European Community Humanitarian Office and the Government of Kazakhstan. Teachers, caregivers and children improved their knowledge of and skills in relation to safe behaviour before, during and after disasters. In disasters, such as the earthquakes and flooding in April 2015, children were better prepared and were able to help their relatives and friends to stay safe. Children and young people took part in a disaster risk analysis with a focus on children's vulnerabilities that was tested in Zyryanovsk, East Kazakhstan region, in 2015. Experiences and lessons learned have been shared at the national and regional levels.

45. Semey and Ust-Kamenogorsk cities, East Kazakhstan region, have joined the international Child-Friendly Cities Initiative, the aim of which is to fulfil child rights at the local governance level. The capacities of local education, health, welfare, economic and budget planning, infrastructure authorities, NGOs and universities were raised in terms of planning and budgeting for children, employing techniques to engage children in the lives of their cities and creating a child-friendly urban environment. As a result, children became active participants in annual public hearings on urban development, at which they presented their views and recommendations to the local authorities.

46. International and national experts of United Nations agencies assessed the structural safety of eight schools in the East Kazakhstan region. Outcomes and recommendations for strengthening safety that were developed and discussed with the local and national education, construction and emergency authorities will contribute to national high-level advocacy on ensuring a safe environment for children.

47. In order to ensure an optimum-quality control structure and improved management systems for the delivery of health-care services, the programme introduced the International Organization for Standardization 9001:2008 standard to the mother and child centre in Oskemen and the perinatal centre in Semey. The two health-care facilities were certified by an external certification body. In addition, 20 per cent of the total number of primary health-care institutions in the East Kazakhstan region received training in the provision of family planning, antenatal care and other sexual and reproductive health services.

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

48. In 2015, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Government of Kazakhstan signed an agreement for the creation of a low-enriched uranium bank in the East Kazakhstan region. The bank is owned and controlled by IAEA but is operated by the Government of Kazakhstan under its own legislation and in accordance with IAEA safety standards and security guidance. The bank is expected to become operational in the second half of 2017.

49. The bank will host a reserve of low-enriched uranium and act as a supplier of last resort for IAEA member States in the event that the supply of low-enriched uranium to a nuclear power plant is disrupted owing to exceptional circumstances and member States are unable to secure low-enriched uranium from the commercial market or by other means. The bank will be located on the premises of the Ulba metallurgical plant. The plant is a licensed nuclear site with commercial-scale operations and the complete infrastructure to safely and securely store, transport and process low-enriched uranium. The bank is financed fully by volunteer contributions, including from Kuwait, Norway, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, the European Union and the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

**International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

50. With financial support from the European Union, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has sought to improve living standards and to protect the dignity of labour migrants in Kazakhstan by providing consultations on the legal, social and health concerns of individuals. From 2014 to 2016, more than 1,000 labour migrants received information on a healthy lifestyle and training in first aid delivery. More than 80 foreign labour migrants in Kazakhstan were able to restore lost documentation and legalize their labour status in the country. In addition, more than 100 labour migrants were treated for health concerns in the medical facilities of Semey.

51. During the same period, the Red Crescent Hospital in Semey provided medical services to vulnerable groups with low economic status, single-parent families, older persons and disabled persons. Treatment was provided to individuals with oncological diseases, in the terminal stages of AIDS and with cardiovascular sicknesses and a number of other disabling illnesses. During the three-year period, 1,085 patients were treated and a total of 40,142 bed days were reported at the hospital. In addition, 105 patients who needed additional treatment and rehabilitation were directed to other specialist health-care institutions of the East Kazakhstan region.

52. Supported by the Japanese Red Cross Society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement offered care and support to 75 individuals with multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis through its health programme for preventive maintenance of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis. Affected individuals received medical and sustenance provisions and home-care visits and benefited from the establishment of peer support groups.

**Government of Japan**

53. From 2014 to 2016, the Government of Japan allocated $238,938 in support of the rehabilitation of social infrastructure in the town of Semey. The funding for activities was allocated from the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects scheme, a funding tool supporting community-level socioeconomic development projects initiated by civil society organizations to address people's basic human needs. During the reporting period, the scheme allocated grants for three separate school rehabilitation projects that successfully established safe and comfortable learning environments for three middle schools in Semey.

**Government of Sweden**

54. The Embassy of Sweden in Kazakhstan organized a number of exhibitions of the Swedish artist, Tove Krabo, in Kazakhstan on the topic of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. The exhibitions presented art works devoted to nuclear tests and their devastating consequences for humankind and the environment. Most of the works were created specifically for the exhibitions.

55. The first exhibition opened on 2 November 2016 in the Museum of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Astana. The following exhibitions were held in Semey, Petropavlovsk and Almaty. Following its tour in Kazakhstan, the awareness-raising project will continue in Sweden.

**European Union**

56. The activities funded by the European Union, which were regulated by several cooperation agreements between the European Union and Kazakhstan in the field of the peaceful exploitation of nuclear energy, were focused mainly on energy

cooperation and research, including in the areas of nuclear safety and nuclear fusion. In addition to allocating financial contributions in the amount of €25 million for the creation of the IAEA low-enriched uranium bank in the East Kazakhstan region, the European Union has provided funding for nuclear safety, security and radiation protection research and capacity-building.

57. From 2013 to 2016, Kazakhstan benefited from the European-Union-funded prospective cohort study of residents living near the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site — feasibility assessment (SEMI-NUC project). The project, which received €945,000 in funding from the research and training programme of the European Atomic Energy Community, was coordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. The goal of the project was to assess the feasibility of establishing a long-term, prospective cohort to study the health effects of the low-to-moderate radiation exposures that resulted from the testing of nuclear weapons at the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. The project brought together scientists from Europe, Japan and Kazakhstan.

58. The results of the project are expected to reduce the duplication of efforts and resources for local and international studies of the health risks associated with low-to-moderate chronic doses of radiation. Other populations exposed to radiation could benefit from the studies of the Semipalatinsk region, which would result in a better understanding of the risks associated with low-to-moderate chronic doses of radiation. The project results may also serve as a valuable reference to make decisions on designing long-term medical follow-up programmes for affected populations.

## V. Priorities for future action

59. The commitment of the Government of Kazakhstan to rehabilitate the lingering consequences of the nuclear test site legacy, coupled with continuous donor assistance and civil society's support, has produced noteworthy results and has laid a foundation for addressing some of the most pressing challenges in the Semipalatinsk region. At the same time, fostering the affected region's long-term development will require the continuous effort of the Government and international community. In line with the State programme for ensuring radiation safety at the adjacent territories of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and the outcomes of the consultations between sectoral ministries and the Akimat of the East Kazakhstan region in preparation of the present report, and on the basis of the final evaluation of the United Nations joint programme finalized in 2015, the following priorities will require additional focus and coordinated action from the Government and the international community in the years to come:

(a) Intensifying the efforts to alleviate rural poverty and close the earned income gap between regions, including in the East Kazakhstan region, through the creation of decent jobs and income generation measures for vulnerable populations, such as repatriates (*oralmans*), disabled persons and young people;

(b) Improving educational policies and the quality of education at both the primary and secondary levels, with special attention to facilitating access to high-quality educational opportunities for children with disabilities and from socially disadvantaged families;

(c) Guaranteeing full gender equality in all spheres of social and civil activities, including ensuring the protection of women from violence, closing the gender pay gap and improving women's access to income-generating opportunities;

(d) Strengthening health-management systems and the primary health-care system, with a focus on mother and child health outcomes;

(e) Increasing the efficiency of planning and the use of State resources in socioeconomic programmes at the local level, fully implementing the law of 2017 on local self-governance and further scaling up community-led participatory initiatives on the basis of the results of the United Nations joint programme;

(f) Enhancing access to high-quality social and economic services for vulnerable groups, including women, older persons and children, particularly those with disabilities;

(g) Continuously monitoring the overall safety and resilience of the East Kazakhstan region, localizing the priority actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with the aim of leaving no one behind, promoting a green economy and climate adaptation and mitigation actions, and monitoring the air quality in and around the industrial zones of Ust-Kamenogorsk;

(h) Enhancing coordination between local and central governments, civil society and the development community for the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and maintaining the results achieved through previous programmes in Semey.

## VI. Conclusions and recommendations

60. The Government of Kazakhstan and civil society have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to advocating the concept of a nuclear-free world and have highlighted the importance of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site as a symbol for the advancement of international awareness of the disastrous consequences of nuclear weapons. Concurrently, the Government, with the assistance of donors and the direct involvement of United Nations agencies, has carried out a considerable amount of work for the benefit of the Semipalatinsk region. National development strategies and programmes have been accompanied by a number of regional projects for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the region.

61. The joint efforts of the Government, local NGOs and the international community have produced significant results, improving the social, ecological and economic conditions of the people affected by the Semipalatinsk test site. To that end, the Secretary-General calls on the international community to further support the joint work of the Government and the United Nations by:

(a) Providing the technical, expert and financial contributions necessary for the implementation of national development programmes for the rehabilitation and development of the Semipalatinsk region;

(b) Promoting international awareness of the humanitarian and environmental devastation caused by the nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk, and reminding the global community of the ongoing challenges of the people affected by the test site;

(c) Strengthening coordination and information-sharing among various actors in the region to plan, implement and monitor inclusive regional socioeconomic programmes and services, with special attention to vulnerable groups in the region.

62. With the aim of supporting the efforts of the Government of Kazakhstan to increase the effectiveness of assistance to alleviate the tragic consequences of nuclear testing, the Secretary-General acknowledges the existing positive developments in the region and takes this opportunity to encourage the international community to intensify its contributions towards the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region.